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**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
EASTON TOWN HALL
14 S. HARRISON STREET**

February 1, 2016

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

9	Mayor Robert C. Willey	12	Councilmember Pete Leshar
10	Council President John Ford	13	Councilmember Ron E. Engle
11	Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein	14	Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf

CALL TO ORDER.

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the regularly scheduled meeting to order.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. SILVERSTEIN AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Silverstein gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2016 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting were approved.

POLICE BOARD.

Chief Spencer and Capt. Waltrup were present and discussed personnel. Chief Spencer introduced Ptl. Christopher Westerfield who graduated from Eastern Shore Justice Academy December 14, 2015. Ptl. Westerfield had previously worked at Easton Police Department as a Police Communications Officer.

Chief Spencer discussed the consolidation of Easton Police Department's communication department with Talbot County 911 Center.

Chief Spencer discussed events for the department and the community.

Chief Spencer stated that Cpl. Timothy Larrimore has been recognized as Officer of the 4th Quarter. He discussed specialized training attended by the Department's officers.

Chief Spencer briefed on the January thru December statistics for the Department.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey stated that at the next Council meeting, the Fire Board will be present and they will have a demonstration of self-contained breathing apparatus that needs to be replaced in this upcoming year. He stated that the cost will be approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000.

Mayor Willey stated that the Audit Outbrief will occur at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Willey stated that the Affordable Housing Trust house that was constructed at 129 Chapel Road has settled with the property owner last Friday.

Mayor Willey advised that there will be a County workshop tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. regarding the Easton Point/Port Street rehabilitation project.

62 Mayor Willey reported that all agencies around the community did a great job during the Jonas
63 blizzard. He stated that he received three complaints which he felt were minimal compared to
64 Easton having 16,500 residents.

65
66 President Ford echoed appreciation to the departments for a job well done.

67
68 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

69
70 Mr. Karge thanked the Town staff for their efforts during the snow storm. Mr. Karge reminded
71 residents that there is a Town of Easton ordinance to clear sidewalks after 24 hours of the
72 cessation of the snow.

73
74 Mr. Karge discussed the concern regarding a potential stop light at St. Michaels Road. He stated
75 that there is progress with those discussions.

76
77 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

78
79 **ORD. 680, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON MODIFYING THE HOUSING LICENSE**
80 **PROVISIONS TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS TO SHORT TERM RENTALS, TO PROVIDE CLEAR**
81 **DIRECTION ON APPLICABILITY AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR A LICENSE, AND**
82 **TO PROVIDE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR OCCUPANCIES BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS."**

83
84 The Town Attorney discussed Ordinance No. 680. She stated that short term rental is defined as
85 four months or less. Mrs. VanEmburch stated that this ordinance is modeled after what Talbot
86 County prescribes. Mrs. VanEmburch discussed possible additional changes.

87
88 Mr. Silverstein discussed Accommodation Taxes and a method to notify Talbot County of the
89 licensees.

90
91 Mr. Engle discussed Ordinance No. 680 and stated that he felt that the expansion of the family
92 issue should be exempt and not applicable to the rental program.

93
94 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 680 to the floor for a first reading and set a public
95 hearing for February 16, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

96
97 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCES 677, 678 AND 679 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE**
98 **TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE 31 SOUTH LOCUST LANE \$27,000 (ORD. 677); 34-36 SOUTH**
99 **LOCUST LANE (ORD. 678) \$36,000; AND 308 SOUTH STREET \$1 (ORD. 679).**

100
101 At 7:28 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

102
103 There were no council questions or public comments.

104
105 President Ford stated that he hopes the council will support these ordinances tonight but hopes
106 to see tangible results; especially in getting applicants for these properties.

107
108 Mrs. Cook stated that she has been in favor of the project for a number of years. She stated
109 that she feels there needs to be some action and stated that the neighborhood needs to see
110 activity. Mrs. Cook stated that she hopes to see something by end of year. She stated that she
111 has been disappointed with the progress and hopes the homes will be renovated and show
112 tangible results soon.

113
114 **ORD. 677, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON**
115 **TO PURCHASE 31 SOUTH LOCUST LANE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

116
117 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Ordinance
118 No. 677 was approved.

119
120 **ORD. 678, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON**
121 **TO PURCHASE 34-36 SOUTH LOCUST LANE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

122
123 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance No.
124 678 was approved.

125 **ORD. 679, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON**
126 **TO PURCHASE 308 SOUTH STREET IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

127
128 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance
129 No. 679 was approved.

130
131 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

132
133 Mr. Engle stated that the Town of Easton did an outstanding job with snow removal. He stated
134 he drove thru his ward and found streets passable Saturday. Mr. Engle stated that he was
135 downtown and police searched establishments and asked that vehicles be removed for snow
136 plowing.

137
138 Mrs. Cook stated that she recently attended the Easton Middle School play Peter Pan and loved
139 the music. Mrs. Cook gave kudos to Councilmember Leshar who was the trombone player.

140
141 **ADJOURN.**

142
143 At 7:37 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,
144 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled council meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk